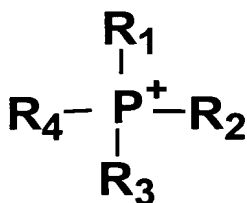


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A polyester resin composition which is a resin composition comprising a polyester and a laminar silicate that is 60-100% modified by an organic phosphonium ion represented by formula (1) below, wherein the content of said laminar silicate is 0.01-20 wt% as inorganic ash and the terminal OH group content is 0.1-45 eq/ton.



(1)

(wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> each independently represent a C1-30 hydrocarbon group or a hetero atom-containing hydrocarbon group, and any from among R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> may form a ring.)

2. (original): A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyester is one or more selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polytrimethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene-2,6-naphthalate.

3. (original): A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the temperature for 5% weight loss of the laminar silicate modified with an organic phosphonium ion as measured with a Thermo Gravimetric Analysis at a temperature-elevating rate of 20°C/min in a nitrogen atmosphere is 310°C or higher.

4. (original): A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, which comprises at least 50% of a laminar silicate with an interlayer distance  $d_B$  of 2.0 nm or greater calculated from the X-ray diffraction peak, and wherein the average number of layers  $N_B$  of the laminar silicate calculated by the Scherrer formula based on the line diffraction peak and its full width of half maximum intensity is no greater than 5.

5. (original): A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the calcium content of the laminar silicate is no greater than 0.5% as the elemental proportion measured by fluorescent X-ray analysis.

6. (original): A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the quartz content is no greater than 0.009 wt%.

7. (original): A molded article composed of a polyester resin composition according to claim 1.

8. (original): A molded article according to claim 7, which is a film.

9. (currently amended): A molded article according to claim 8, wherein the diffraction peak intensity between layers of the laminar silicate in X-ray diffraction in the cross-sectional direction of the film is such that the orientation factor  $f_c$  in formula (5) below is no less than 0.8~~no greater than 0.8~~.

$$f_c = \frac{3 \langle \cos^2 \phi \rangle - 1}{2}, \quad \langle \cos^2 \phi \rangle = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} I_c(\phi) \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi \, d\phi}{\int_0^{\pi/2} I_c(\phi) \sin \phi \, d\phi} \quad (5)$$

(wherein  $f_c$  is the orientation factor,  $\phi$  is the declination in the in-plane direction of the film, and  $I_c(\phi)$  is the diffraction intensity for the declination  $\phi$ ).

10. (original): A molded article according to claim 7, which is a fiber.

11. (original): A molded article according to claim 7, wherein the average number of layers  $N_C$  of the laminar silicate is no greater than 5, as calculated by the Scherrer formula from the line diffraction peak and its full width of half maximum intensity.

12. (original): A process for production of a polyester resin composition according to claim 1, characterized by production with a step of (A) polymerization of a dicarboxylic acid or its ester derivative with an aliphatic glycol, and/or a hydroxycarboxylic acid in the presence of a laminar silicate that has been ion-exchanged with an organic phosphonium ion to 60-100% with

respect to the ion exchange capacity, to obtain a polyester resin composition with a laminar silicate content of 0.01-30 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the polyester, and a step of (B) melt-kneading at a shear rate of 250/s or greater at a temperature above the melting point of the polyester.

13. (original): A process for production of a polyester resin composition according to claim 12, wherein the polyester resin composition containing the laminar silicate obtained by polymerization step (A) comprises at least 50% of a laminar silicate with an interlayer distance  $d_A$  of 2.0 nm or greater calculated from the X-ray diffraction peak, and the average number of layers  $N_A$  of the laminar silicate calculated by the Scherrer formula based on the line diffraction peak and its full width of half maximum intensity is no greater than 7.